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ABSTRACT

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorizes several programs to support and improve the education of children with disabilities. The grants to States, preschool, and infants and toddlers programs are formula grant programs that fund special education services. The discretionary grant programs fund research, demonstrations, and training. Total funding for all IDEA programs in fiscal year 1993 was $2.84 billion. Funds under the grants to States and preschool programs are allocated to States and local education agencies based on the number of disabled children served. Funds under the infants and toddlers program are allocated to States based on the number of children in the general population under the age of 3. Funds under the discretionary grant programs are awarded on a competitive basis. The number of children with disabilities served by each IDEA program is specified, and the types of services provided are noted. A chart shows the funding trend for IDEA from fiscal year 1980 to 1993. (JDD)

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Individuals With Disabilities Education Act: An Overview

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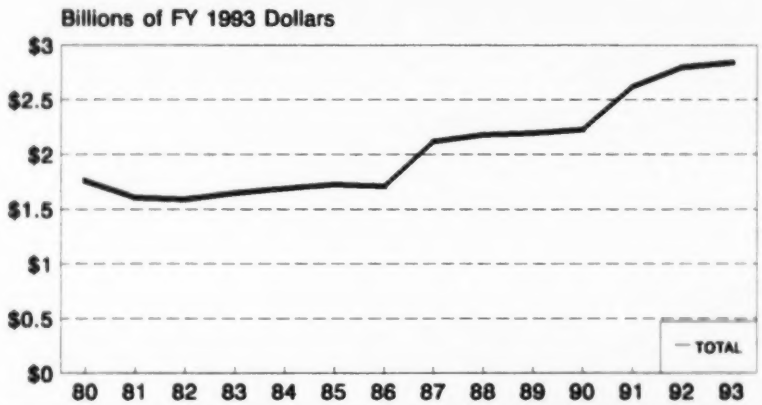
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) authorizes several programs to support and improve the education of children with disabilities. The grants to States, preschool, and infants and toddlers programs are formula grant programs that fund special education services. The discretionary grant programs fund research, demonstrations, and training. This report provides an overview of IDEA funding, participation, services, and allocation methods.

Funding

Total funding for all IDEA programs is $2.84 billion in FY 1993. This is an estimated 62 percent increase, adjusting for inflation, from FY 1980. The chart shows the funding trend for IDEA in FY 1993 dollars.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT
APPROPRIATIONS, FY 1980 - FY 1993
CONSTANT FY 1993 DOLLARS



	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
grants to States	$1.45	$1.38	$1.38	$1.45	$1.45	$1.49	$1.47	$1.63	$1.67	$1.66	$1.67	$1.97	$2.04	$2.05
preschool	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.04	$0.22	$0.23	$0.28	$0.27	$0.31	$0.33	$0.33
infants/Toddlers								$0.06	$0.08	$0.08	$0.09	$0.12	$0.18	$0.21
discretionary	$0.26	$0.2	$0.17	$0.17	$0.2	$0.21	$0.2	$0.21	$0.2	$0.19	$0.2	$0.21	$0.25	$0.25
TOTAL	$1.76	$1.61	$1.59	$1.65	$1.69	$1.73	$1.71	$2.12	$2.18	$2.2	$2.23	$2.62	$2.8	$2.84

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Participation

Grants to States Program. During the 1991-92 school year, 4,722,461 children with disabilities were served. The program serves disabled children ages 3-21, and is the largest IDEA program. Children with disabilities are those identified as having one or more of 10 physical or mental disabilities ranging from hearing impairments to learning disabilities. The number of children served under the program has increased approximately 20 percent since the 1980-81 school year.

Preschool Program. About 398,000 children with disabilities were served in the 1991-92 school year. The program serves disabled children ages 3-5. Beginning in the 1991-92 school year, participating States were required to serve all disabled preschoolers.

Infants and Toddlers Program. During the 1991-92 school year, 105,195 infants and toddlers with disabilities were served. The program serves disabled children under the age of 3. The program was created in 1986 and has not yet been fully implemented in all States participating in the program.

Discretionary Grant Programs. No data are available on the number of children served in these various research and demonstration projects.

Services

Grants to States Program. Children with disabilities in participating States are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive educational setting. (All States voluntarily participate in the program.) For each disabled child, FAPE is to include the special education and related services identified in the child's individualized education program (IEP).

Preschool Program. Preschool-age children with disabilities in participating States are also entitled to special education and related services in the least restrictive educational setting according to their IEP. (All States participate.)

Infants and Toddlers Program. Infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families in States with a fully implemented early intervention system are entitled to a range of early intervention and support services. Services are provided according to the child's individualized family service plan (IFSP). Currently, 40 States have fully implemented early intervention systems.

Discretionary Grant Programs. The various research and demonstration projects provide a range of special education and early intervention services to selected children.

Allocation Methods

Funds under the grants to States and preschool programs are allocated to States and local educational agencies (LEAs) based on the number of disabled children served. Funds under the infants and toddlers program are allocated to States based on the number of children in the general population under the age of 3. Funds under the discretionary grant programs are awarded on a competitive basis. The grants to States and preschool programs are permanently authorized. The infants and toddlers and discretionary grant programs are authorized through FY 1994.